



Docket No.
126688/0037

Applicants: **Douglas G. Evans, et al.** Group Art Unit: **3731**
Application No.: **10/633,254** Examiner: **Not Yet Known**
Filed: **August 1, 2003**
For: **SELF-ANCHORING SLING AND INTRODUCER SYSTEM**

Date: **May 5, 2004**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL" (37 C.F.R. § 1.8)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

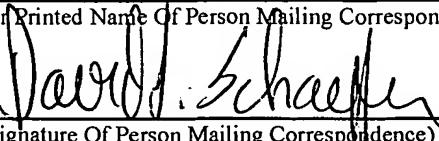
Return Postcard; Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs); FORM PTO 1449 (7 pgs.); 67 References

is being deposited on May 5, 2004 with the United States Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope bearing sufficient postage thereon and addressed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

David L. Schaeffer

(Typed Or Printed Name Of Person Mailing Correspondence)


(Signature Of Person Mailing Correspondence)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Douglas G. Evans, et al.**

Serial No.: **10/633,254** Art Unit: **3731**

Filed: **August 1, 2003** Examiner: **Not Yet Known**

For: **SELF-ANCHORING SLING AND INTRODUCER SYSTEM**

May 5, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed List of References Cited by Applicant(s) form (PTO-1449).

Copies of the listed publications and foreign references are enclosed. Copies of the cited U.S. references have not been provided, in accordance with the Notice entitled "Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003" set forth at 1276 O.G. 55.¹ The present application, it should be noted, was filed after June 30, 2003, on August 1, 2003.

¹ The relevant portion of that Notice reads:

Waiver

The Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371 after June 30, 2003. See 37 CFR 1.491(b). For all patent applications filed on or before June 30, 2003, copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are still required unless an eIDS is filed.

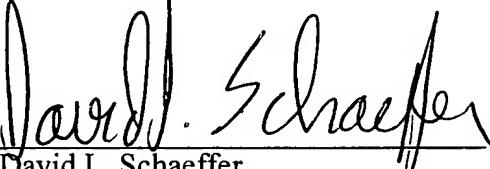
This Information Disclosure Statement is being cited in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing of an Office Action, and so no fee is believed to be due.

Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, as well as any other fee which may now or hereafter be due, to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed List of References Cited by Applicant(s) form (PTO-1449) be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

David L. Schaeffer
Reg. No. 32,716
Attorney for Applicant
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
180 Maiden Lane
New York, New York 10038-4982
(212) 806-5400

Applicants are still required to submit copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

Douglas G. Evans, et al.

FILING DATE

August 1, 2003

GROUP
3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,638,210	10/28/03	Berger			
	6,638,211	10/28/03	Suslian et al.			
	2001/0049467	12/06/01	Lehe et al.			
	2001/0053916	12/20/01	Rioux			
	2002/0007222	01/17/02	Desai			
	2002/0028980	03/07/02	Thierfelder et al.			
	2002/0052653	05/02/02	Durgin			
	2002/0058959	05/16/02	Gellman			
	2002/0072694	06/13/02	Snitkin et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	WO 02/058565 A2	08/01/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/062237	08/15/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/065921 A1	08/29/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/065922 A1	08/29/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/065923 A1	08/29/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/071931 A1	09/19/02	WIPO			
	EP 0 983 033 A	10/09/02	EPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	RIDLEY, JOHN H.; "Appraisal of the Goebell-Frangenheim-Stoeckel sling procedure"; (publication date unknown)
	STANTON, STUART L.; "Suprapubic Approaches for Stress Incontinence in Women"; (publication date unknown)
	STASKIN, DAVID R., CHOE, JONG M., BRESLIN, DAVID S.; "The Gore-Tex sling procedure for female sphincteric incontinence: indications, technique, and results"; World J. Urol.; 1997
	CHOE, JONG M., STASKIN, DAVID R.; "Gore-Tex Patch Sling: 7 Years Later"; 1999

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

Douglas G. Evans, et al.

FILING DATE

August 1, 2003

GROUP
3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2002/0077526	06/20/02	Kammerer et al.			
	2002/0099258	07/25/02	Staskin et al.			
	2002/0147382	10/10/02	Neisz et al.			
	2002/0151762	10/17/02	Rocheleau et al.			
	2002/0188169	12/12/02	Kammerer et al.			
	2003/0023136	01/30/03	Raz et al.			
	2003/0023138	01/30/03	Luscombe			
	2003/0050530	03/13/03	Neisz et al.			
	2003/0065246	04/03/03	Inman et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	WO 02/098322 A1	12/12/02	WIPO			
	WO 03/002027 A1	01/09/03	WIPO			
	WO 03/013369 A1	02/20/03	WIPO			
	WO 03/068107 A1	08/21/03	WIPO			
	EP 1 342 454	09/10/03	EPO			
	WO 03/075792 A1	09/18/03	WIPO			
	DE 102 11 360	10/09/03	GERMANY			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		COOK; Urogynecology; Product Technical Datasheet and Order form
		WALTERS, MARK D.; "Percutaneous Suburethral Slings: State of the Art"; (publication date unknown)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

Douglas G. Evans, et al.

FILING DATE

August 1, 2003

GROUP

3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2003/0171644	09/11/03	Anderson et al.			
	2003/0176762	09/18/03	Kammerer			
	2003/0176875	09/18/03	Anderson et al.			
	2003/0212305	11/13/03	Anderson et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	WO 03/092546 A2	11/13/03	WIPO			
	WO 03/096928	11/27/03	WIPO			
	WO 03/096930	11/27/03	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT

Douglas G. Evans, et al.

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

FILING DATE

August 1, 2003

GROUP

3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,110,101	08/29/00	Tihon et al.			
	6,197,036	03/06/01	Tripp et al.			
	6,221,060	04/24/01	Willard			
	6,273,852	08/14/01	Lehe et al.			
	6,382,214	05/07/02	Raz et al.			
	6,406,423	06/18/02	Scetbon			
	6,440,154	08/27/02	Gellman et al.			
	6,475,139	11/05/02	Miller			
	6,612,977	09/02/03	Staskin et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

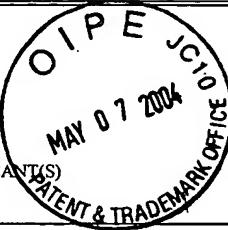
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	WO 02/26108	04/04/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/28312	04/11/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/28315	04/11/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/39914 A1	05/23/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/058562 A1	08/01/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/058563 A1	08/01/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/058564 A2	08/01/02	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	NICHOLS, DAVID H.; "The Mersilene Mesh Gauze-Hammock For Severe Urinary Stress Incontinence"; Obstetrics and Gynecology; (publication date unknown)
	NORRIS, JEFFREY P., BRESLIN, DAVID S., STASKIN, DAVID R.; "Use of Synthetic Material in Sling Surgery: A Minimally Invasive Approach"; Journal of Endourology; Vol. 10, No. 3, June 1996
	O'DONNELL, PAT D.; "Combined Raz Urethral Suspension and McGuire Pubovaginal Sling for Treatment of Complicated Stress Urinary Incontinence"; Jan. 1992
	RAZ, SHLOMO; Female Urology; Second Edition; 1996

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

ATTY DOCKET NO.
126688/0037APPLICATION NO.
10/633,254

APPLICANT

Douglas G. Evans, et al.

FILING DATE

August 1, 2003

GROUP
3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,172,458	10/30/79	Pereyra			
	4,655,221	04/07/87	Devereux			
	4,784,139	11/15/88	Demos			
	4,911,164	03/27/90	Roth			
	4,938,760	07/03/90	Burton et al.			
	5,013,292	05/07/91	Lemay			
	5,112,344	05/12/92	Petros			
	5,123,910	06/23/92	McIntosh			
	5,149,329	09/22/92	Richardson			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
6	WO 90/03766	04/19/90	WIPO			
	EP 0 437 481 B	03/15/95	EPO			
6	WO 96/06567	03/07/96	WIPO			
6	EP 0 745 351 A	12/04/96	EPO			
6	EP 0 556 313 B	03/05/97	EPO			
	WO 97/13465	04/17/97	WIPO			
6	WO 98/35632	08/20/98	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	BRYANS, FRED E.; "Marlex gauze hammock sling operation with Cooper's ligament attachment in the management of recurrent urinary stress incontinence" 1979
	BURCH, JOHN C.; "Urethrovaginal fixation to Cooper's ligament for correction of stress incontinence, cystocele, and prolapse" (publication date unknown)
	FALCONER, C., EKMAN-ORDEBERG, G., MALMSTROM, A., ULMSTEN, U.; "Clinical Outcome and Changes in Connective Tissue Metabolism After Intravaginal Slingplasty in Stress Incontinent Women"; The International Urogynecology Journal; 1996
	FALCONER, C., SODERBERG, M., BLOMGREN, B., ULMSTEN, U.; "Influence of Different Sling Materials on Connective Tissue Metabolism in Stress Urinary Incontinent Women"; The International Urogynecology Journal; 2001

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT

Douglas G. Evans, et al.

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

FILING DATE

August 1, 2003

GROUP
3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,356,432	10/18/94	Rutkow et al.			
	5,439,467	08/08/95	Benderev et al.			
	5,474,543	12/12/95	McKay			
	5,562,689	10/08/96	Green et al.			
	5,647,836	07/15/97	Blake, III et al.			
	5,693,072	12/02/97	McIntosh			
	5,830,220	11/03/98	Wan et al.			
	5,840,011	11/24/98	Landgrebe et al.			
	5,860,425	01/19/99	Benderev et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
✓	EP 0 740 925 B	03/03/99	EPO			
✓	WO 00/18325	04/06/00	WIPO			
✓	WO 00/27304	05/18/00	WIPO			
	WO 00/66030	11/09/00	WIPO			
	WO 00/74594 A1	12/14/00	WIPO			
✗	WO 00/74613 A1	12/14/00	WIPO			
✓	WO 00/74633 A2	12/14/00	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	HORBACH, NICOLETTE S.; "Suburethral Sling Procedures"; Urogynecology and Urodynamics Theory and Practice Fourth Edition; 1996
	KARRAM, MICKEY M., BHATIA, NARENDER N.; "Patch procedure: Modified Transvaginal Fascia Lata Sling for recurrent or severe stress urinary incontinence"; Mar. 1990
	KERSEY J.; "The gauze hammock sling operation in the treatment of stress incontinence"; British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Vol. 90 pp. 945-949; October 1983
	KORDA, ANDREW; PEAT, BRIAN; HUNTER, PETER; "Experience with Silastic Slings for Female Urinary Incontinence"; Aust NZ J Obstet Gynaecol 1989

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

Douglas G. Evans, et al.

FILING DATE

August 1, 2003

GROUP
3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,899,909	05/04/99	Claren et al.			
	5,904,692	05/18/99	Steckel et al.			
	5,934,283	08/10/99	Willem et al.			
	5,971,967	10/26/99	Willard			
	6,030,393	02/29/00	Corlew			
	6,042,534	03/28/00	Gellman et al.			
	6,042,536	03/28/00	Tihon et al.			
	6,063,094	05/16/00	Rosenberg			
	6,068,591	05/30/00	Bruckner et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	EP 0 778 749	12/27/00	EPO			
	WO 01/52750	07/26/01	WIPO			
	EP 1 151 722 A	11/07/01	EPO			
	EP 1 159 921 A	12/05/01	EPO			
	EP 0 854 691 B	01/02/02	EPO			
	WO 02/02031	01/10/02	WIPO			
	WO 02/19946	03/14/02	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	LICHTENSTEIN, IRVING L., SHULMAN, ALEX G., AMID, PARVIZ K., MONTLLOR, MICHELE M.; "The Tension-Free Hernioplasty"; The American Journal of Surgery Vol. 157; Feb. 1989
	MCINDOE, G.A.J., JONES, R.W., GRIEVE B.W.; "The Aldridge Sling Procedure in the Treatment of Urinary Stress Incontinence"; Aust NZ J Obstet Gynaecol; 1987
	MORGAN, J.E.; "A sling operation, using Marlex polypropylene mesh, for treatment of recurrent stress incontinence"; (publication date unknown)
	NARIK, G., PALMRICH, A.H.; "A simplified sling operation suitable for routine use"; (publication date unknown)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED